

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 /084 W

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R 141759Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4409

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 18696

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GW, WB, EC, US, UK, FR, UR

SUBJECT: PLANNED MEETING IN BERLIN OF PRESIDUM OF
EC PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

1. UK REP (HITCH) AT NOVEMBER 13 BONN GROUP MEETING
REPORTED THAT, ACCORDING TO DPA REPORT, THE EC
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY PRESIDUM HAD RESPONDED TO A
SUGGESTION OF BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PRESIDENT
LORENZ AND WAS PLANNING TO MEET IN BERLIN ON 4-5
DECEMBER. HITCH SAID THE PRESIDUM HAD LAST MET IN
BERLIN 26-27 FEB 1973. THAT MEETING HAD DRAWN NO
SOVIET COMPLAINT BUT THE EC-BERLIN RELATIONSHIP WAS A
PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE MATTER NOW AND THE BONN GROUP
SHOULD CONSIDER THE PROS AND CONS OF SUCH A MEETING.

2. FRG REP (LUECKING) SAID THE FONOFF HAD BEEN INFORMED
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BY FRG MISSION IN BRUSSELS THAT IN ADDITION TO PRESIDUM

MEETING, EC PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT SPINALI PLANNED DURING THE SAME BERLIN VISIT TO ATTEND AN SPD MEETING AND TO MEET WITH SCHUETZ AND LORENZ. SPINALI IS ALSO CONSIDERING HOLDING A PRESS CONFERENCE AND HAS ASKED THE FRG WHAT HE SHOULD SAY ABOUT DIRECT ELECTIONS OF BERLIN REPS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. THE FONOFF IS CONSIDERING WHAT ANSWER TO GIVE SPINALI.

3. FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) SAID RAISING THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS ISSUE IN THIS WAY COULD BE DISASTROUS. IT WOULD BE VERY STUPID TO START ALREADY NOW THE QUARREL WITH SOVIETS OVER HOW BERLIN WOULD CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN A REVISED EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. IT WOULD BE BEST IF PRESIDUM SESSION IN BERLIN COULD BE POSTPONED AND PERHAPS FRENCH AND BRITISH VIA THEIR GOVERNMENT REPS TO THE PARLIAMENT SHOULD REQUEST POST-PONEMENT.

4. LONG DISCUSSION THEN ENSUED, FOCUSED ON POINT THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT AND PERHAPS COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO INSIST ON POSTPONEMENT OF PRESIDUM MEETING IN BERLIN SINCE IT WAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED, AND IN FACT THAT THERE WAS NO LEGAL OBJECTION TO THE SESSION. IN THE END, IT WAS AGREED THAT UK AND FRENCH REPS WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS APPROACH SPINALI TO URGE THAT HE SAY NOTHING IN BERLIN ABOUT THE ELECTION ISSUE.

5. LUECKING ALSO SUGGESTED THAT HE WOULD PUT THE MATTER TO FONMIN GENSCHER'S OFFICE WITH A SUGGESTION THAT GENSCHER'S POLITICAL AIDE, KINKEL, PASS THE WORD THROUGH POLITICAL CHANNELS TO BERLIN POLITICIANS THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR SPINALI AND HIS COLLEAGUES TO AVOID COMMENTS ON ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WHILE IN BERLIN. LUECKING SAID HE WAS HOPEFUL SUCH AN EFFORT WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL SINCE "THERE ARE STILL SOME

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REASONABLE PEOPLE."

6. COMMENT: FRENCH REP PRIVATELY TOLD US COLLEAGUE HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY BRITISH REP HAD NOT SUPPORTED HIS SUGGESTION THAT UK AND FRANCE REQUEST POSTPONEMENT OF MEETING. HE STILL BELIEVED POSTPONEMENT WAS THE ONLY ANSWER, AND HE MAY RECOMMEND ANYWAY THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT RECOMMEND IT TO SPINALI. HE WAS NOT HOPEFUL THAT LUECKING'S IDEA WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL.

7. WHILE WE ARE NOT PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH PROSPECT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS IN BERLIN BY PRESIDUM MEMBERS ON DESIRABILITY OF DIRECT ELECTIONS OF BERLINERS TO EC PARLIAMENT, IT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT THEY WOULD CAUSE US ANY REAL PROBLEMS WITH SOVIETS. THE SOVIETS APPARENTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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DID NOT REACT TO THE LAST SUCH PRONOUNCEMENT BY AN EC OFFICIAL IN BERLIN (USBER 1219). THE SOVIETS ARE MORE LIKELY TO PRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE EC IN OTHER CONTEXTS, BUT THEY MAY NOT WEIGH IN WITH A PROTEST UNLESS THE ALLIES TAKE A FORMAL DECISION NOT TO THEIR LIKING.

8. A MORE TRICKY ASPECT IS THAT SUCH STATEMENTS GENERATE PRESSURES WHICH COMPLICATE OUR DECISIONS REGARDING BERLIN AND THE EC. FOR THAT REASON, WE HOPE THAT PRESIDUM MEMBERS CAN RESTRAIN THEIR REMARKS ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE.
HILLENBRAND

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